

Poetry.

THE DRUNKARD'S WIFE.

In a hospital ward a woman lay
Painfully gasping her life away ;
So bruised and beaten you scarce could trace
Womanhood's semblance in form or face.
Yet the hair that over the pillow rolled
In a tangled mass was like threads of gold ;
And never a sculptor in any land
Molded a daintier foot or hand.

Said one who ministered to her need :
"None but a coward could do this deed ;
And what bitter hate could have nerved the arm
That a helpless creature like this could harm ?"
Then the dim eyes, hazy with death's eclipse,
Slowly unlock, and the swollen lips
Murmured faintly : "He loves me well—
My husband—'t was drink—be sure you tell—
When he comes to himself, that I forgive ;
Poor fellow ; for him I would like to live."
A shudder, a moan, as the words were said,
And a drunkard's wife on the couch lay dead.

O fathers, who your daughters rear,
Somebody's daughter is lying here.
O brothers of sisters, come and see
What the fate of your precious one may be.
O man ! however you love your home,
Be it palace or cottage, 'neath heaven's blue
dome,
This demon of drink can enter in ;
For law strikes hands and bargains with sin.

You have legalized crime, you have the gold,
Now hand them over, the sons, you sold—
Keep pushing them forward. Drink, boys,
drink !
Your fathers are paid for your souls, they
think ;
And in the great mart where Mammon strives,
Cheapest of all things are human lives.

Contributions.

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

H. M. LICHTY.

As it is agreed that I should write a few articles on the new relation that woman is assuming to the world, it may be proper to say something by way of a preface. Times change. Woman is woman still, as in primitive days ; but as man is daily learning more and claiming less, woman's position has very materially changed. The very rapid progress of woman's development in relation to society and the professions, to politics and religion, does not date back twenty or forty years. We need not look back even five years to notice the greatest progress.

The press, secular and religious, is assuming a new attitude. The day when woman is held up for silly and fun-making newspaper paragraphs is rapidly passing. It is well that it is. It is, to say the least, a great injustice to our mothers and sisters, our wives and daughters, to be continually getting off smart things reverting against them. True, most people like a joke. They believe in innocent fun,

but very few enjoy being the one against whom the joke is played—the object of the ridiculous. Very few men indeed, who will not have to admit that they frequently have held up a very dear lady friend to marked disadvantage in reading to her some cutting joke against woman and then thought it strange that she could not see as much fun in it as he did. The press is not slow to learn, however, and it is fair to presume that we will soon see marked progress in this line. To show there is room for improvement, here is one from an editorial in a recent issue of the S. S. Times. "Woman has always been ready to concede a certain measure of authority to man, if he would be willing to let her have her own way." Now this is a mean insinuation. In many families that have come under my notice, if the man had his way less and the woman her way more, there would be a decided improvement all around. But the Autocrat says,

"COMPARISONS ARE ODIUS."

It is to be regretted that in the coming articles there must necessarily be much of the comparison. Why woman should or should not participate in the professions, in politics, in religion, must necessarily call forth her ability as compared with man's of advancing civilization, or gaining a livelihood in these various fields.

I have always contended for the rights of women. I have been compelled to accept them as my equals in the school-room, in college halls, in the world at large. I am continually reminded of the rights of women, as it came to me in my youth. You will please pardon me for frequent allusions to personal experience. In these articles conclusions will be drawn from personal observation rather than as to what men write, or as to theories, that are theories only. My mother was a woman of force and character—of superior judgment and will power, though she was kind and generous to all. Father was the head of the family. He was the treasurer as well as the president of the institution that we knew as home, and which grows dearer to me as time separates me from its hallowed associations. Father had the "oversight" of a church, and while he was no "speaker" he was regarded as a man of wise counsel. To me, however, mother's wisdom and will, her judgment and execution, lies back of father's success. It was not only her hand that rocked the cradle, but it was her mind that solved the knotty problems that came to father for solution.

The "book agent" or the "tree peddler" might have an easy convert in father, but it was often against him when he turned

to see what mother thinks before "subscribing." When the division of the Dunkard church came, my father, with his congregation held to the "conservatives"—remained "true" to the church, though with other influence he would have been a "Progressive." He was very closely associated with Bishop Lint and other "bishops" who believed in enforcing the annual meeting statutes regardless of consequences. And while he was interceded by some, and threatened by others, he did not enforce these man-made laws. How well I remember in one of our heated discussions over the matter, that mother said, "they are going to do this to break down the Progressives, but it is to their advantage every time, and I beseech you, father, that in our church we try some other way." This was in the early days and it took the elders and bishops a number of years to see and put into practice, what this woman saw in the start.

WOMEN IN POLITICS,

Women in the profession, women in the home, women in the church, women in the arts, women in the sciences, women everywhere. Wherever man goes there woman is by his side. God so intended it. Man physically the stronger, blazes and hews down the pathway, but woman will be found right by his side, even in this initial work. But politics ! Who would want a woman to engage in politics ! There are hundreds and thousands of *men* in this country that speak the word only in derision. Politics is no more nor less than the affairs of state. Do you think any less of Lincoln or Garfield, of Grant or Blaine, because they entered politics and thus laboring for the affairs of the state immortalized their names ? It is wonderful how the past year politics have been taken out of the hands of thugs and boodlers and given to men of standing and women above reproach. Women have been greatly instrumental in this. We might begin with the strong and effective contest made by women of New York, but a little over a year ago, to induce the constitutional convention to drop the word "male" and so make equal suffrage possible. From this time it seems that woman's rights has meant a great deal more than strong minded females and erratic costumes. Although they failed, the battle was fought by the first women in the great state of New York and seems to have been the turn of the tide on the great question.

It is well remembered how the women of Kentucky compassed the defeat of Breckenridge. True, they did it by moral suasion, but they did it and worked it as men work politics. In Indiana, law